



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Pacific Meadows and Del Mesa Fuel Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Pacific Meadows and Del Mesa Subdivisions 5315 Carmel Valley Road Carmel Valley, CA 93923-9553	COUNTY	Monterey
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Jonathan Pangburn, Forester I		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will reduce fuel loading in two subdivisions along Carmel Valley Road. The project will reduce brush loading by approximately 60% and prune trees up to 16 feet or 50% of the live crown (whichever is less) within 200 feet of a road or a building. This will open emergency ingress/egress in the event of an emergency as well as create defensible space for potential fires originating either in the adjacent Jack's Peak County Park, along Carmel Valley Road, or on the properties themselves. The vegetation will be reduced by hand crews using chainsaws; the resulting material shall be chipped and used as mulch on the properties. No heavy equipment will be used off of the road right-of-way.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 § 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits within the Class 4 Categorical Exemption described in the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Section 15304) pertaining to maintenance of existing facilities, will not have a significant effect on the environment, and is exempt from the provisions of CEQA. Prior to reaching this conclusion, however, the Department first conducted limited environmental review to confirm that no **Exceptions** exist at the project site which would preclude the use of a Categorical Exemption. The possible exceptions that lead agencies must consider include (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2). This project involves reducing fuel loading on two properties which are hazards to the emergency ingress/egress, and which will have no appreciable impact on the water or the land. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impacts would occur. The Unit Forester determined these are not timber operations; the project is not subject to the provisions of the Forest Practice Rules, and no timber harvesting document is required. Documentation on the environmental review completed by CAL FIRE is kept on file at CAL FIRE's San Benito-Monterey Unit Headquarters.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING




William E. Snyder, Deputy Director
8/24/10
Date